

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 11-164—sSB 462
General Law Committee

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMERS' MARKET WINE PERMIT

SUMMARY: This act creates a farmers' market wine sales permit that allows farm wineries to sell wine they manufactured on their premises under a manufacturer's permit and other specified conditions. Under the act, a municipality may choose to prohibit wine sales at a farmers' market held there by ordinance or zoning regulation.

The law allows liquor permittees to only hold one permit, unless specifically exempted. Under prior law, a farm winery manufacturer permittee could hold an in-state transporter's permit, a wine festival permit, or any combination of such permits. The act adds the farmers' market wine sales permit to the exemption, thus allowing a farm winery manufacturer permittee to concurrently hold any of these permits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

FARMERS' MARKET WINE SALES PERMIT

The act requires the consumer protection commissioner to issue a farmers' market wine sales permit when the permittee submits proof he or she is in compliance with the farm winery manufacturing permit statute. The farmers' market wine sales permit authorizes the farm winery to sell wine it manufactures at up to three farmers' market locations a year for an unlimited number of appearances. The permittee must (1) have an invitation from the farmers' market; (2) sell wine only by the bottle; and (3) be present, or have an authorized representative present, anytime wine is sold.

The permit is valid for one year and requires a \$250 annual fee, with a \$100 nonrefundable filing fee.

Under the permit, wine sales are allowed from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, but not on Sunday or when the farmers' market is not open to the public. A town may reduce the allowable wine selling hours through a town meeting vote or ordinance.

BACKGROUND

Farmers' Markets

A farmers' market is a cooperative or nonprofit enterprise or association that consistently occupies a given site throughout a season or for any given day or event. It must operate principally as a marketplace for a group of farmers, with at

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least two of them selling Connecticut-grown fresh produce, to sell Connecticut-grown farm products in conformance with applicable regulations. Farm products that are sold must be produced by farmers with the sole purpose of generating a portion of household income.

OLR Tracking: DC:RP:JL:ro